8/22/42

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EVANS F. CARLSON.

Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, was born on February 26, 1896, at Sidney, New York. He makes his home at present in Plymouth, Conn.

He began his military career at the age of 16 when he enlisted in the Army in 1912. Discharged three years later, he extended his enlistment for one year in the U. S. Army Reserve.

Colonel Carlson joined the Army for the second time in 1916 and was sent to France where he was wounded in 1918. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army that same year, a commission which he held until 1919.

Colonel Carlson began his colorful career as a Marine when he enlisted in the Corps in 1922. A year later, 1923, he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

After duty at Quantico, Va., he sailed in 1924 for Culebra, Cuba. He remained there for approximately five months before being ordered to the west coast. The following year he applied for aviation training and was sent to Pensacola, Fla., for instruction.

Colonel Carlson's next tour of foreign duty was in 1927 when he went to Shanghai, China, where he remained for two years as Regimental Intelligence Officer.

In 1930 he was ordered to Nicaragua as an officer in the Guardia Nacional. For his "extraordinary heroism" there he was awarded the Navy Cross. Colonel Carlson, then a first lieutenant, had received a report that about one hundred bandits were looting a town. With only twelve men he attacked the bandits. Two were killed and seven wounded. He lost no men and recovered all the stolen property. He was also highly commended for his actions following the earthquake at Managua in 1931.

In 1933 he returned to the United States and was sent to Shanghai, China. Later, in 1933, he was transferred to the Marine Detachment at the American Legation, Peiping, China. He returned to the States via Japan in 1935.

The following year he returned to China for the third time. Among his other duties he went as an official student of the Chinese language. While there he had ample opportunity to observe the tactics of the Jap soldiers. When he left in 1938, he was commended by the Commander in Chief of the Asiatic Fleet, who said:

"Your duties as an observer with the Chinese military forces have required you to travel thousands of miles in the interior of China, often on foot and horseback over the most difficult and hazardous terrain, and under primitive living conditions similar to those encountered by native troops. During this time the nature of your duties not only subjected you to the immediate dangers of active warfare but to those of pestilence and disease as well."

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EVANS F. CARLSON, USMC (Cont'd)

Captain Carlson was very impressed with what he saw on these battlefronts. In fact, he was so impressed that he resigned his commission in 1939 following his return to this country so that he could be free to write and lecture on the danger of Japanese expansion in the Far East. A book on his China experiences, "Twin Stars of China," was published by Dodd-Mead in 1940.

Seeing how events were shaping up in that area he applied for recommissioning in April, 1941, and was appointed to the rank of major. The following month he was ordered to active duty.

His medals and decorations are: The Navy Cross, Nicaragua 1930-31; Purple Heart, France, 1918; Yangtze Service Medal, Shanghai, China, 1927; Expeditionary Medal, China, 1927-29-33; Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal, Nicaraguan Medal of Distinction and Diploma, and the Nicaraguan Presidential Order of Merit.

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